OMAMORI HIMARI 6

MILAN MATRA

LOVE
CAT
6
OMAMORI HIMARI

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

SHIZUKU

AN AYAKASHI WHO MANIPULATES WATER. HER CLAN DESTROYED BY DEMON SLAYERS, SHE HOLDS A GRUDGE AGAINST THEM AND ATTACKED YUUTO IN REVENGE. BUT PERPLEXED BY YUUTO'S KINDNESS, SHE HAS DECIDED TO TAKE UP RESIDENCE WITH HIM.

HIMARI

A CAT AYAKASHI, OR SPIRIT, WHO SUDDENLY APPEARED BEFORE YUUTO TO SERVE AS HIS BODYGUARD. NOW THAT SHE HAS GOTTEN HER SWORD, YASUTSUNA, BACK FROM KUESU, SHE IS ABLE TO PROTECT YUUTO ONCE MORE.

YUUTO

THE HERO OF THIS STORY. HE'S YOUR TYPICAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT HE'S THE CURRENT DEMON SLAYER OF THE "AMAKAWA FAMILY," ONE OF TWELVE SUCH FAMILIES. HE'S ALLERGIC TO CATS, SO WHEN HIMARI TAKES ON HER TRUE FORM, HIS EYES AND NOSE CAN'T STOP RUNNING.

LIZLET L. CHELSIE

LIZ FOR SHORT, THIS YOUNG GIRL WORKS AT THE CAFÉ WHERE HIMARI WORKS PART-TIME, BUT HER TRUE FORM IS A TSUKUMOGAMI—A TEACUP THAT HAS COME TO LIFE. SHE'S FOND OF YUUTO AND CALLS HIM HER "SPECIAL CUSTOMER."

KUESU JINGUUJI

THE HEIRESS TO ONE OF THE TWELVE DEMON-SLAYER FAMILIES, THE JINGUUJI, AND YUUTO'S BETROTHED. SHE SHOWS A SURPRISING SIDE TO HERSELF WHEN SHE BOOSTS HIMARI'S CONFIDENCE AFTER A NEW ENEMY APPEARS.

RINKO

YUUTO'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND. SHE'S LOOKED AFTER YUUTO LIKE A SIBLING SINCE SHE WAS LITTLE, BUT EVER SINCE HIMARI SHOWED UP, SHE'S STARTED SEEING HIM MORE AS A "MAN."

OTHER AYAKASHI

TAMA (THE FAIR NINE-TAILED FOX)

SHUTEN-DOUJI

THE STORY SO FAR

YUUTO AMAKAWA IS A HIGH SCHOOLER WITH A SEVERE ALLERGY TO CATS.
WHO SHOULD APPEAR BEFORE HIM ONE DAY OTHER THAN A FELINE AYAKASHI, HIMARI?

"I WILL PROTECT YOU, YOUNG LORD."

SUCH IS THE PROCLAMATION MADE BY HIMARI, HAVING BEEN GIVEN THE DUTY OF PROTECTING YUUTO, THANKS TO A PLEDGE MADE LONG AGO. BUT YUUTO ALSO HAS TO DEAL WITH HIS NEIGHBOR AND CHILDHOOD FRIEND, RINKO, AS WELL AS THE AYAKASHI SHIZUKU, WHO WAS SWAYED BY YUUTO'S KINDNESS AND DECIDED TO LIVE WITH HIM. WITH ALL THESE GIRLS IN HIS LIFE, YUUTO'S DAYS QUICKLY BECOME OFF-THE-WALL AND FULL OF FUN WITH NO END OF SURPRISES.

ONE DAY, HIMARI'S BODY REGRESSES INTO THAT OF A LITTLE GIRL'S DUE TO A PRANK ON KUESU'S PART. THE TIMING COULDN'T BE WORSE, AS YUUTO'S ENEMY, AGEHA, APPEARS ON THE SCENE AND STEALS YUUTO AWAY TO DRINK HIS DEMON-SLAYER BLOOD. DEPRESSED BY HER NEW, WEAKER FORM, HIMARI VOWS TO FIGHT BACK USING HER BODY AS HER BLADE IF NECESSARY, FOLLOWING A TALKING-TO BY THE UNSYMPATHETIC SHIZUKU.

"I AM THE BLADE THAT SHALL SLAUGHTER ALL ENEMIES,
THE SHIELD THAT SHALL DEFLECT ANY DISASTER."

EQUIPPED WITH A SHORT SWORD SECRETLY INFUSED WITH YUUTO'S LIGHT FERRY, HIMARI FACES OFF AGAINST THE POWERED-UP AGEHA. AS HIMARI IS ABOUT TO RUSH IN FOR THE FINAL BLOW, RINKO AND THE IPPONDATARA, SASA, INTERRUPT THE FIGHT. AT THE SAME TIME, HIMARI'S TRANSFORMATION REVERTS, AND SHE RETURNS TO HER NORMAL FORM.

AT LONG LAST, HIMARI AND COMPANY ARE ABLE TO ENJOY THEIR EVERYDAY NORMAL LIVES ONCE MORE. THAT IS, UNTIL A MAN NAMED KABURAGI APPROACHES YUUTO ASKING HIM TO JOIN HIS MEN AS A DEMON SLAYER. HIMARI DEMANDS AN EXPLANATION, AND KABURAGI TELLS THEM THAT SOMETHING IS ON THE MOVE, EATING AYAKASHI.

BEFORE THE PARTY HAS HAD TIME TO DIGEST THIS NEW INFORMATION, AN AYAKASHI IN THE FORM OF A LITTLE GIRL APPEARS. HIMARI LEAPS OUT TO PROTECT YUUTO, BUT...

"NO...CAT!! THE ONES SHE'S AFTER
ARE US AYAKASHI...!!"

THE YOUNG GIRL RIPS HIMARI'S SHIRT AND ATTACHES HERSELF TO HER BREAST. AS YET ANOTHER UNFAMILIAR OPPONENT, THIS TIME A MAN, APPEARS IN THE MAELSTROM, YUUTO AND HIS FRIENDS CAN SEE NO ESCAPE IN SIGHT. ALL HOPE SEEMS TO BE LOST UNTIL KUESU APPEARS WITH HIMARI'S YASUTSUNA, REPAIRED AND READY FOR ACTION.

"BUT YOU AND THAT BOY...WILL GROW
QUITE TASTY ALL IN GOOD TIME."

THE YOUNG GIRL AND THE MAN RETREAT AT THE SIGHT OF YASUTSUNA. IN THE WAKE OF THE BATTLE, THE TWO ARE REVEALED TO BE TAMAMO-NO-MAE, THE FAIR NINE-TAILED FOX, AND SHUTEN-DOUJI.

"I SHALL NOT ALLOW HER...
TO EVEN TRY."

HIMARI SEEMS CONFIDENT, BUT HOW WILL THINGS PAN OUT!?

SO NINE-TAILS AND HER FRIEND WERE HERE TOO... YOU KNOW.
I SEE...
MM. MANY OF OUR OWN FACED THEM, BUT THOSE TWO HAD THE UPPER HAND, AND LIVES WERE LOST.
THE REST SCATTERED AND ARE NO LONGER HERE IN TAKAMIYA.
HUH. HOW IRONIC THAT IT WAS NOT A DEMON SLAYER, BUT FELLOW AYAKASHI WHO POSED THE GREATER THREAT.
DIDN'T WE TRY TO CURRY FAVOR WITH THE AMAKAWA DESCEN-DANT FOR JUST SUCH AN OCCA-SION?
HE IS STILL A WEAKLING.
WHY, HE VERY NEARLY HAD HIS OWN CRIMSON BLADE EATEN.
THE NINE-TAILS AND SHUTEN-DOUJI ARE STILL ONLY SHADOWS OF THEIR REAL SELVES...THEY WON'T MAKE ANY BIG MOVES FOR A WHILE YET...YOU KNOW.

MENAGERIE 29:
AN ORDINARY CAT AND HER CREW NONETHELESS

THIS SENSATION... IT DIFFERS NOT FROM MY YASU-TSUNA OF OLD.
IT PAINS ME TO COMMEND HER, BUT THAT KUESU REALLY OUTDID HERSELF.
GYU (GRIP)
MY HAND SHALL NOT BE STAYED THE NEXT TIME I HAPPEN UPON THAT FOX RELIC.
I AM THE DEMON CAT OF THE AMAKAWA.
THE NOIHARA CRIMSON BLADE.
BYU (WHOOSH)

ZAN (SLICE)
FOR THE SAKE OF PROTECTING THE YOUNG LORD...
...DO I WIELD THIS SWORD!!
QUIT PLAYING AROUND SO EARLY IN THE MORNING, CAT PRINCESS.
M-MERCY! I APPLIED TOO MUCH STRENGTH TO MY SWING.
MREOW! MROW!
スコ
SUKO (CLACK)
コン
KON (CLONK)
MROW!!

YUUTOOOO! GET UP ALREADY OR WE'LL BE LATE, 'KAAAAY?
I'M AWAAAKE! I'LL BE RIGHT DOWN AFTER I GET DRESSED...
SO SLEEPY ...
IF WE'RE LATE TO SCHOOL, SAE-CHAN'LL NEVER LET US OFF THE HOOK!
ガターン
GATAN (CLUNK)
!?
I'VE... GOT TO PROTECT MY EVERY-DAY LIFE.

DON'T TELL ME... IT'S AN AYAKASHI.
SOOOO (REACH)
GATA (RATTLE)
GATATA
THERE'S SOMETHING IN MY CLOSET...
WHAT IS IT?
THIS MUST BE YUUTO AMAKAWA'S ROOM.
DOKI (BADUM)
DOKI
BAN (WHAM)
GAN (SMACK)
NU (LOOM)
GWOOOH...

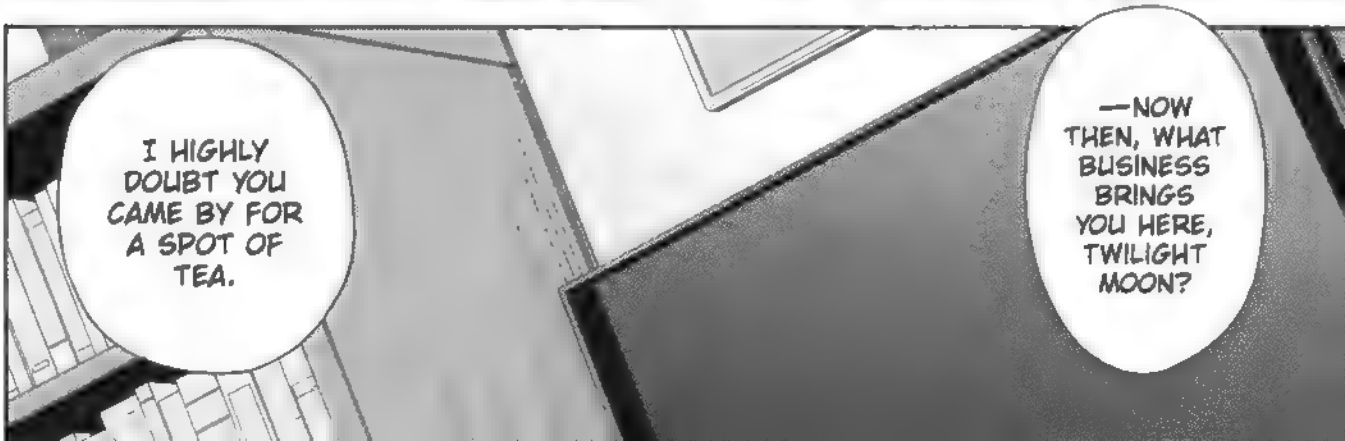
HEY! WHAT'S ALL THIS RACKET, HMMM?
GYA!
CHA (CHAK)
DO (THUD)
DE (TRIP)
DEEEN (TUMBLE)
HRM?
KYAH!?
ZURU (SLIP)
GUNYU (SMOOSH)
PARDON ME FOR INTRU—
NYU
GWEEH!?
OW, OW...
BWUH...

HFF! HFF! "RINKO-CHAN'S VIOLENT LOVE" NAIL BAT SURE HAS BEEN MAKING A LOT OF APPEARANCES LATELY...
HOW DARE YOU DO THAT, YOU FLAT-CHESTED COMMON-ER!!?
DOKU
ZUGYAAAN! (THWAAACK)
GYAAAH! HOW'D THIS YANDERE GET IN HERE!!?
WHAT DID YOU CALL MEEE!?
YUU-CHAN, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
UUUH...
HEY! DON'T IGNORE MEEE!!
I-I HAVE NO CHOICE.
GU (HOLD)
I'LL HAVE TO ORALLY TRANSMIT MY HEALING MAGIC...
GOSU (BONK)

OH? WHY, IF IT IS NOT KUESU!
THE WAY YOU FAILED TO USE THE FRONT DOOR, I THOUGHT PERHAPS WE HAD A GIANT INSECT ON OUR HANDS.
HOH-HOH-HOH-HOH... WHAT DID YOU SAY?
YOU FOOLISH FELINE! IF YOU'RE GOING TO TREAT THE GREAT KUESU LIKE A BUG, THEN YOU REQUIRE DISCIPLINE!
...SERI-OUSLY, THOUGH, HOW'D YOU GET IN HERE?
MYEEERHE
I HAVE NO IDEA HOW, BUT SHE CAME OUT OF THE CLOSET ALL OF A SUDDEN...
SIMPLE.
I AFFIXED A FOURTH-DIMENSIONAL TWIST TO A KLEIN BOTTLE, CONNECTING THIS ROOM TO MY OWN.
OW, OW
YOU DID WHAT ...!?
THEN YOU MEAN TO SAY...

...YUUTO CAN SEE YOU GETTING UNDRESSED WHENEVER HE WANTS...
NOOO!
EEEK!
PESH! (SLAP)
ぶばっ
BUBA (SPLORT)

...DOES NOBODY CARE ABOUT MY OWN VIOLATION OF PRIVACY?
B-BUT IF YUUTO WANTED TO PEEP ON ME, I...
THAT'S RIGHT. PEEPING IS A CRIME, AFTER ALL.
BUT I WOULD NOT OBJECT TO THE YOUNG LORD PEEPING ON ME...
INDEED. ABSOLUTELY UNFORGIVABLE.
BUT IF IT WAS YUU-CHAN, THEN MAYBE...
I-I-I WOULD NEVER ALLOW SUCH INDECENT BEHAVIOR!


I HIGHLY DOUBT YOU CAME BY FOR A SPOT OF TEA.
—NOW THEN, WHAT BUSINESS BRINGS YOU HERE, TWILIGHT MOON?

YOU ALREADY KNOW WHY I'M HERE— FOR YUUTO AMAKAWA'S SPECIAL TRAINING AS THE HEIR TO THE AMAKAWA FAMILY POWER.
YOU'RE NOT SO DULL AS TO THINK YOU CAN ACTUALLY CARRY ON IN YOUR CAREFREE WAYS NOW THAT MAJOR CONTENDERS LIKE THE NINE-TAILS AND SHUTEN-DOUJI HAVE COME TO SAY HELLO, ARE YOU?
...HMPH. PERHAPS WE ARE.
AND THUS WE ARE GOING TO ENJOY BREAKING OUR FAST AND THEN PROCEED TO SCHOOL.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE! YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE OF WINNING WITHOUT THE PROPER PREPARA-TIONS!
TIME IS ON OUR SIDE.
FURTHER-MORE...
IS YUUTO IN DANGER AGAIN...?

...RATHER THAN BOAST ABOUT "RESCUING THE HUMAN WORLD," THE YOUNG LORD WISHES TO START BY PROTECTING THOSE AROUND HIM, MAKING HIM FAR MORE RELIABLE THAN YOU.
WHAT YOU ARE TRYING TO DO IS NO DIFFERENT FROM KABURAGI.
KNOW THIS. POWER WITHOUT EMOTION ACCOM-PLISHES NOTHING.

PURU (SHAKE)
I KNOW YOU DO THAT ON PURPOSE.
THEY CANNOT BE HELPED.
...YOU LET THEM OUT AGAIN ...
THOSE... EARS... ACHOO!!
PURU
.....
HIMARI...
GUH!!
DAN (BANG)
KII (GLARE)
I HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA OF WHAT YUU-CHAN WANTS AND WANTS TO PROTECT!
BUT OF THEM ALL...

COULD YOU WATCH MY BACK FOR ME?
YEAH! SURE! I'LL PROTECT YOU!
—KUH ...!!
KUESU...
GOGA (BASH)
OOF!
GOSU
GOSU
GOSU (SMACK)
.....
EH?
HEY! KUESU, THAT HUR—
GYUU (HUG)
MUNYU (SMOOSH)

KU-
KUESU?
.....
I WON'T FORGIVE YOU.
BIKUU (SHUDDER)
!!
WON'T FORGIVE YOU, WON'T FORGIVE YOU, WON'T FORGIVE YOU.....
FREAKY! KNOCK IT OFF WITH THE HORROR ACT!
THAT IS THE MANNER OF A VENGEFUL SPIRIT
THIS GIRL APPEARS TO BE MENTALLY UNSTABLE ...
...FINE.
I'LL JUST HAVE TO BE PART OF YOUR "EVERY DAY" TOO.

!!
EH?
IF I DO THAT...
...THEN YUU-CHAN WILL—!
CHU (SMOOCH)
RAGE

YOUNG LORD... WHY DO YOU NOT STRIVE TO AVOID THAT FEMALE'S LIPS?
DOES THAT MEAN YOU GREET EVERYBODY THAT WAY!!?
DO NOT TELL ME, YOU ACTUALLY WISH TO PRESS YOUR LIPS TO HERS?
N-NO, UM...
THEN THAT DOESN'T MAKE IT A GREETING AT ALL, YOU NUTCASE!!
HOW RUDE! KISSES ARE SAVED ONLY FOR YU...FOR YUU-CHAN ALONE!
COME NOW! A KISS IS A TYPICAL WESTERN GREETING! ♡
QUIT IT WITH THE 'ROUND-THE-CLOCK SMOOCHING, WOULD YAAA!!?
AAW.
I CAN'T ARGUE WITH THAT ~♡
IT GOES TO SHOW HOW OPEN YOU LEAVE YOUR-SELF.
HOWEVER, EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE...
MOJI (FIDGET) もじ もじ MOJI
I AM YOUR CAT. I ELECTED TO FOLLOW YOU ON THE PATH OF YOUR CHOOSING, YOUNG LORD.
I DO NOT SEEK COM-PENSATION FOR THAT.
...'TIS IMPORTANT FOR A MASTER TO REWARD HIS SERVANT... DO YOU NOT AGREE?

NOW LET'S GET STARTED ON OUR "EVERY DAY"!
FIRST THINGS FIRST. BREAK-FAST!!
SHUUU (HISSSS)
IF YOU LET YOUR GUARD DOWN IN THIS HOUSE, YOU'RE AN IMMEDIATE LOSER.
TOO CLOSE. WAY TOO CLOSE.
OHHH, I DON'T THINK SO.

AND NOW FOR SOME FUN AT THE TABLE...

.....ANOTHER ONE JOINS THE PACK...YOU KNOW.
WE ARE GOING TO BE TARDY AGAIN TODAY.
IF YOU'RE GONNA COMPLAIN, THEN DON'T EAT IT!
WHY, THIS SIDE DISH ISN'T EVEN FIT FOR A PAUPER!

.....
MY DUTY...
...IS TO PROTECT THE YOUNG LORD AND WATCH OVER HIM UNTIL HE BECOMES A FULL-FLEDGED DEMON SLAYER.
I STRAY NOT FROM THAT VOW.
INITIALLY, THE YOUNG LORD WAS A WEAKLING, BUT NOW HE CAN HOLD HIS OWN QUITE WELL.
THUS, THE COURSE OF ACTION TO TAKE NOW IS—

...IS THAT ONLY WISHFUL THINKING ON MY PART?
I SAID, "TIME IS ON OUR SIDE," BUT...
THOUGH IT MAY BE REGARDED AS MERE SENTIMENTALITY...
...WHILE LIVING WITH THE YOUNG LORD... HE HAS TAUGHT ME ABOUT THINGS OTHER THAN FIGHTING.
THE NINE-TAILS AND HER FRIEND HAVE US MARKED.
AND KABURAGI AND THE NATION'S DEFENSE FORCES HAVE ALREADY EXTENDED THEIR OFFER TO HIM.
BUT DOES THAT MAKE IT ACCEPTABLE FOR ME TO INDULGE IN SUCH SENTIMENT?
...TODAY PROMISES TO BE YET ANOTHER CHILLY ONE.

MENAGERIE 30: THEN THE CAT STARTS WALKING

.....
...HM.
...YOU PASS.
PH-PHEEEEW! THANK GOOD-NEEESS!
YOU ARE YUUTO AMAKAWA'S FRIEND, AND YOU SERVE OTHERS IN A GENUINE MANNER. IMPRESSIVE FOR AN AYAKASH! IF YOU ASK ME.
WHYYY, THANK YOOOU!
HOW-EVER—
JI'RO (GLARE)
-DV-

ぷるーん
PURUUUN (GIGGLE)
TAJI (CRINGE)
たじ…
Y-YES, WHAT IS IT?
...IF YOU EVER TRY TO SEDUCE YUU-CH...YUUTO AMAKAWA WITH THOSE GIANT BREASTS... YOU KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN, DON'T YOU?
EEEEH!?
カラーン
KARARÁAAN (JANGLE)
YOU'RE AN INANIMATE OBJECT! STOP TRYING TO SELL YOURSELF AS A LIVING THING!!
BUT YUUTO-SAN FINDS MY BREASTS TO HIS LIKING (I THINK) ...

SORRY I'M LATE...YOU KNOW.
DON'T YOU KNOW THE ONLY PERSON A LADY CAN KEEP WAITING IS A MAN?
.....?
THE AIR SEEMS TO BE FULL OF SPARKS ALL OF A SUDDEN!

I'M NOT INTERESTED IN PLAYING A LADY FOR YOU...YOU KNOW.
HOH HOH HOH! FINE. HAVE IT YOUR WAY.
LET'S HEAR IT THEN...
...WHAT YOU'VE COME TO TELL ME, YOU KNOW...

EVEN THOUGH IT'S STILL NICE OUT
—NOW THAT THE SEASON'S CHANGING, NONE OF THE STUDENTS COME TO EAT LUNCH UP HERE ON THE ROOF.
NNNI
HM? OUR INTENTION IS NOT TO PARTAKE IN LUNCH HERE.
A POST-MEAL WORK-OUT IS IN ORDER... YOU SEE.
WORK-OUT?
SPECIAL DEMON-SLAYER TRAINING... RIGHT?
...PRE-CISELY.
MY ORDERS FROM GRANDPA GEN WERE NOT LIMITED TO PROTECT-ING YOU ONCE YOU TURNED SIXTEEN.
I WAS ALSO ORDERED TO TRAIN YOU TO BECOME A FULL-FLEDGED DEMON SLAYER.
N-NOW JUST A MINUTE!

DIDN'T YOU TELL KUESU SOMETHING LIKE "WE'VE GOT TIME" JUST THE OTHER DAY...
...AND DIDN'T YOU ALSO SAY HE DIDN'T NEED ANY SPECIAL TRAINING?
MM. THE TRAINING THAT KUESU SPOKE OF HAS TO DO SOLELY WITH THE POWER TO EXTERMINATE AYAKASHI.
SUCH IS NOT IN LINE WITH THE YOUNG LORD'S INTENTIONS.
THAT'S RIGHT.
THAT SAID, TRYING TO NEGOTIATE PEACEFULLY WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS COME TO ATTACK YOU IS NOTHING SHORT OF A DEATH WISH.
YOU MUST AT LEAST HAVE THE POWER TO FIGHT IF YOU HOPE TO SPEAK ON EQUAL TERMS.
WHAT KIND OF PRINCIPLE IS THAT?
REMINDS ME OF SOME COUNTRY OR OTHER
YOU SHOWED UP IN THE FIRST PLACE TO PROTECT YUUTO, DIDN'T YOU, HIMARI?
THEN I DON'T SEE ANY REASON FOR YUUTO TO BECOME A DEMON SLAYER ...!
INDEED.

BUT THAT ONLY APPLIES SO LONG AS I AM LIVING.
I CANNOT PROTECT HIM IF I AM DECEASED.
AH... HM.

ZA (SKSH)
BA (FLING)
WHEN THE TIME COMES TO FIGHT THE NINE-TAILS AND SHUTEN-DOUJI...
TAN (TMP)
BUT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT NEXT TIME THEY WILL BE FULLY WHOLE.
I SIMPLY SAID THAT TIME WAS YET AVAILABLE TO US BECAUSE THEY ARE STILL IN FRAGMENTS.
ZAAAAA (SSSHHH)
...I AM NOT SO OPTIMISTIC AS TO THINK WE WILL BE VICTORIOUS WITHOUT SUSTAINING ANY INJURY.
IF I WERE TO BE FELLED WHILE THE YOUNG LORD'S DEMON-SLAYER ABILITIES LAY DORMANT, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN THEN?

THERE THEY ARE AGAIN... THOSE EYES.
JUST LIKE WHEN SHE FIRST CAME HERE.
THE SAME EYES HIMARI HAS WHEN SHE FEELS MOST ALIVE...AS A BODYGUARD IN THE HEAT OF A FIGHT...
BUT AFTER SHE STARTED TAKING PART IN OUR DAILY LIVES, HIMARI CHANGED.
I THOUGHT SHE'D BECOME MORE LIKE A NORMAL GIRL.
HOWEVER—
...WHAT IF IT'S THAT CHANGE THAT HAS HIMARI THINKING IT'S OKAY IF SHE DI...ES SOMEDAY—

HONING YOUR SKILLS IS ALSO A SERVANT'S DUTY.
THINK ON IT AS YOU WOULD A MOTHER BIRD DROPPING HER CHICKS OUT OF THE NEST.
BUT HENCEFORTH, I SHALL BECOME A DEMON.
I FIND MYSELF INDULGING IN YOUR NAIVETÉ.
YOUR KINDNESS MAKES ME DULL.
...THERE YOU GO AGAIN.
ONCE MORE, YOU ARE CASTING YOUR CONCERN UPON ME.

YUUTO, BEHIND YOU!!
EH...?

B-SHI (ZIP)
HIMA...
SU (QUICK)
—!?
SUPAN (TRIP)
WAH!
RYU (SQUEAK)
GUH!
GA (GRAB)

BO (FWOOM)
DO (WHUD)
YUUTO!!
KAH-HAH!
THAT'S ENOUGH, HIMARI! WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO !?
"WHAT," YOU ASK?
DID YOU NOT HEAR A THING I JUST SAID?
...THOUGH I WISH TO REFRAIN FROM UTTERING AS MUCH, I SHALL MAKE MENTION OF ONE LAST THING.
THE MORE RESOLUTELY THE YOUNG LORD CLINGS TO THIS NORMAL, EVERYDAY LIFE, THE MORE DANGER HE INVITES TO THOSE AROUND HIM.

AND LET US NOT FORGET... WHO WAS IT THAT FIRST CAME AFTER YOU?
LIKE HOW YOU, RINKO, WERE POSSESSED BY THE MAKURA-GAESHI, THE DREAM DEMON.
!!
HAS IT FINALLY HIT YOU THEN?
TAI-ZOU...
IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO INCONVE-NIENCE THOSE AROUND YOU, THEN BEST BECOME A HERMIT AND LIVE IN SECLUSION SOMEWHERE REMOTE.
AND THERE YOU HAVE IT.
IF THAT PLEASES YOU NOT... YOUR ONLY REMAINING OPTION IS TO EQUIP YOURSELF WITH POWER.

IT'S NOT AN INCONVE-NIENCE!
I NEVER ONCE THOUGHT OF IT AS AN INCON-VENIENCE, OKAY!!?
SHE'S RIGHT. I KNEW I WAS PUTTING THE PEOPLE AROUND ME IN DANGER.
I WAS ONLY TRYING TO DENY IT...
YUUTO !!
RINKO ...?
RINKO...
THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO THROW AWAY THE LIFE YOU'VE HAD SO FAR JUST 'COS YOU WENT AND GOT SMART TO HOW THINGS USED TO BE!!
HUMANS AND AYAKASHI ONCE SHARED THIS WORLD TOGETHER! BUT IT'S JUST THAT WE PRESENT-DAY HUMANS HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT!

HOW STRONG ...
...YOUR INNOCENCE IS.
BOHYU (WHOOSH)
THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT I FIND WORTHY OF PRO-TECTION.
OOOOO (WHOOOO)
GRANDPA GEN SPENT HIS LIFE LIVING OUTSIDE SOCIETY AND BATTLING AYAKASHI.
IF THE YOUNG LORD HAS CHOSEN TO FOLLOW A PATH DIFFERENT FROM THAT, THEN I SHALL LEAD THE WAY FOR YOU.
BUT FIRST, SHOW ME YOUR CONVIC-TION TO FOLLOW THAT PATH.

I BELIEVE IN YOU!
KYU (SQUEAK)
TON (THWAP)
YUUTO...
DON (RUSH)
HERE SHE COMES!
HIMARI'S A NIMBLE CAT.
WILL SHE GO FOR RAPID-FIRE ASSAULTS OVER ONE ALL-OUT ATTACK!?

...FROM THE LEFT!?
A KICK...
!!
BO (VWSH)
ZUBA (SLASH)
LEFT IT IS!!
EH...?

TOO WEAK.
IS THIS GONNA BE HER FINAL BLOW!?
GUH!!
GA (THWACK)
YUUTO!!
BAKI (CRACK)

BIRI
BIRI (STING)
...I HELD BACK ON YOU. BUT EVEN SO, WELL DONE.
THANKS.
MY ARMS ARE SERIOUSLY FEELING IT RIGHT ABOUT NOW, THOUGH

...LEARNING TO PARRY YOUR OPPONENT'S ATTACKS WILL BE VERY VALUABLE TO YOU, YOUNG LORD.
...BEFORE WE FOCUS ON THE "LIGHT FERRY"...
YOU TOOK MY ATTACK FULL ON WITHOUT TURNING TAIL AND TRYING TO RUN.
YUUTO, ARE YOU OKAY?
GOOD IDEA! ...D'OW, OW!
STILL, HOW'D YOU MANAGE TO TAKE THE BRUNT OF THE CAT Pprincess'S ATTACK LIKE THAT?
THAT ALONE MEANS YOU PASSED TODAY.
TOMORROW, I SHALL BE FAR MORE DEMANDING OF YOU!
I KNEW SHE WOULDN'T COME AT ME ON DAY ONE WITH SOMETHING I COULDN'T HANDLE.
HMPH.
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE SHE WANTED TO BEAT ME UP. THIS IS ONLY TRAINING, AFTER ALL.

DO SOME TRAINING TO CLEAN UP THAT DIRTY MIND OF YOURS!!
トゴッ
OOF!
DOGOO (BASH)
OHH. UM, LET'S SEE... WHITE.
OH, CRAP
HIMARI'S PANTIES.
...SO!
WHAT COLOR WERE THEY?
ポン
PON (PAT)
? WERE WHAT?

—I ACCEPT YOUR PROPOSAL... YOU KNOW.
...I DON'T CARE... YOU KNOW.
...YOU MAY NEVER BE ABLE TO GO BACK TO YUUTO AMAKAWA, UNDER-STAND?
IF YOU'RE REALLY ON BOARD WITH THIS...
I WON'T DEMAND PAYMENT OR ANY-THING...
...BUT!
NOW THEN, PLEASE LEAD ME...
...TO THIS DESCENDANT OF THE JIBASHIRI OF WHOM YOU SPEAK.....

MENAGERIE 31: THE WORLD OF CORRUPT CATS

.....
...STATE YOUR BUSI-NESS...
...MIZUCHI.

I NEVER CAN TELL WHEN YOU WILL TRY TO STAB ME IN THE BACK, AFTER ALL.
CAT.
I CANNOT ENJOY MY SHOWER WITH YOU SKULKING ABOUT.
.....
...IF YOU CATCH SIGHT OF ME AFTER TOMOR-ROW.....
...KILL ME... YOU KNOW.

SHE HAS DECIDED TO GO ALONG WITH IT, HAS SHE?
THAT PLAN.
...VERY WELL.
I AM IN YOUR DEBT... YOU KNOW.
BASHA (SPLASH)
.....
THEN SHE DOES NOT WISH FOR HIM TO AVENGE HER...IS THAT IT?
WHAT A DEPLORABLE POSITION INTO WHICH SHE HAS THRUST ME.

HYUOOO
(WHOOOO)
A COLD, WINTRY WIND—
BLOW HARDER.
BLOW UNTIL YOU CARRY THIS DREAM OFF FAR AND AWAY...YOU KNOW.
THAT DAY TOO WAS A WINDY DAY JUST LIKE TODAY.

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ME, WHO HAD GONE TO PICK RASPBERRIES IN THE FOREST, EVERYONE—
GAKU (TREMBLE)
ALL OF THEM, DEAD. ...KILLED.
MOTHER, SISTER, THE ELDERS...
GOUSUI, ASATSUYU, EVERYONE...
I RAN.
I RAN BLINDLY AS FAR AS MY FEET WOULD TAKE ME.

SOME MONTHS LATER, THANKS TO RUMORS ON THE WIND, I CAME TO KNOW...
...THAT THE ONES WHO HAD SLAUGHTERED MY MIZUCHI CLAN WERE ONE OF THE TWELVE DEMON-SLAYER FAMILIES, THE "JIBASHIRI"...
I SWORE I WOULD NEVER, EVER FORGIVE THEM. SUCH A THING WAS UNTHINKABLE. I VOWED THAT I WOULD HAVE MY REVENGE.
I WOULD KILL THOSE VILE, BLACK-HEARTED DEMON SLAYERS, NO MATTER WHAT—
BUT DESPITE IT ALL...
...THE JIBASHIRI GOT THEMSELVES KILLED ON THE BATTLEFIELDS OF A GREAT WAR.
EVEN SO, THE DARK FLAME OF REVENGE CONTINUED TO SMOLDER IN MY CHEST—

HYUOO (WHOOOO)
SHIZUKU!
THAT'S ENOUGH. THE SHOW HAD TO END EVENTU-ALLY...
NOW JUST HAPPENED TO BE THE TIME IS ALL...
JKI (GRIP)

WHAT'RE YOU ZONING OUT ABOUT, HMMM, YUUTO?
PON (PAT)
ぽん
HUH? OHH.
HM, WELL, YEAH.
NOW THAT YOU BRING HER UP, WE HAVEN'T SEEN HER AT ALL OVER THE LAST THREE OR FOUR DAYS, HUH?
I DARE-SAY SHE IS OCCU-PIED WITH HER OWN PRIVATE MATTERS.
...IS IT THE MIZUCHI?

NOW THAT I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LIVE WITH LOTS OF PEOPLE IN A LIVELY HOUSE, IT GETS LONELY WHEN EVEN ONE PERSON'S MISSING.
OH YEAH?
WELL, WE ARE LIKE FAMILY NOW AND ALL.
DO YOU FRET FOR HER?
HA HA HA...
EVEN WITH THE RECENT ADDITION OF THAT DRAMA QUEEN, KUESU?
A FINE THING, FAMILY...
I NEVER KNEW MY PARENTS.
R-REALLY?
MY MOTHER DEPARTED THIS LIFE GIVING BIRTH TO ME.
MY KIND ONLY BIRTHS FEMALES, YOU SEE.
MY FATHER MIGHT HAVE BEEN A DEMON CAT OF ANOTHER SPECIES OR A NOIHARA STRAY...
GRANDPA GEN AND GRANDMA SAWA WERE MY PARENTS AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED—
ZA (SKSH)

AND NOW YOU ARE MY FAMILY, YOUNG LORD, RINKO.
OF COURSE.
AND DON'T FORGET SHIZUKU AND KUESU EITHER.

ARE YOU TRULY CERTAIN ABOUT THE PATH UPON WHICH YOU NOW TREAD, SHIZUKU —?
—YES. THAT IS QUITE RIGHT.
IS THIS IN ALL HONESTY WHAT YOU DESIRE —?
AND YOU, KUESU...
—LONG TIME, NO SEEEEE! ...ERM, JINGUUJI-SAN, WAS IT?
YES. IT HAS BEEN A WHILE.
...SERIOUSLY. LAST WE MET WAS AT THE TSUCHIMIKADO MANSION NINE YEARS AGO.
WE'VE BOTH GROWN UP SINCE THEN.
YOU SAID IT. AH-HA-HA!

YOU TOTALLY DON'T LOOK ANYTHING LIKE YOU USED TO, JINGUUJI-SAN.
I ALMOST DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU!
YES, WELL, A LOT HAPPENED ABROAD...
YOU'RE GOING TO AN ALL-GIRLS COLLEGE NOW, IS THAT RIGHT, MIKARI-SAN?
YEAH. THANKS TO YOU, I'M LIVING THE LIFE OF AN ORDINARY COLLEGE STUDENT. ♡
ORDI-NARY, INDEED... FU-FU-FU!
SO WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO CONTACT ME OUT OF THE BLUE TODAY? IT SEEMED LIKE YOU HAD SOME IMPORTANT BUSINESS WITH ME?
THERE'S SOMEBODY HERE WHO WOULD LIKE TO... MEET YOU, MIKARI-SAN.

MEET ME?
WHO COULD IT BE?
KYAH!?
.....EH?
BOU (GLOW)
KA
HIS POWER, WHICH SHATTERS THE DREAM, CRUSHES THE LIFE...
KA (FLASH)
...DESTROYS ALL HOPE FOR TOMORROW, AND OBLITERATES THE WORLD AS IT IS KNOWN TO US...
...TURN ETERNITY INTO THE FLICKERING PRESENT.
BA (FWAP)
JINGUUJI-SAN!? WHAT IS THIS...!?
BARI (ZZT)
BARI
BARI
KAMI-ZAKURA GANDOU SEALS ALL AND DESTROYS REASON!!

AT LONG LAST, THE DOOR IS CAST WIDE, AND THE SERPENT'S BANQUET BEGINS HERE THIS NIGHT.
AND THERE YOU HAVE YOUR "DECAY THE WORLD."
ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ (RUMBLE)

MENAGERIE 32: A GRAY DAY, AN EVER-CHANGING CAT

HER NAME IS RANKA MIKARI.
...HMPH!
THAT GIRL IS ONE OF THE JIBA-SHIRI?
.....
SHE'S CHANGED HER NAME, BUT IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT SHE'S A BLOOD RELATION TO THE JIBASHIRI.
I DON'T FEEL ANY POWER COMING FROM HER... ...YOU KNOW.

BA
AHH!
BA (ZAP)
BA
AHH
...!!
ALL THAT'S LEFT ARE BRANCH FAMILIES THAT HAVEN'T YET MANIFESTED THEIR POWERS...
AS YOU KNOW, THE JIBASHIRI FAMILY WAS KILLED IN THE GREAT WAR.
IT'S THE IDEAL TARGET FOR AN AYAKASHI. SO HOW DO YOU SUPPOSE A VULNERABLE BUNNY LIKE HER SURVIVED THIS LONG?

...THIS BUNNY'S FAMILY APPEALED TO THE KAMIZAKURA FAMILY OF DEMON SLAYERS TO PUT A STRONG SEAL ON HER.
THAT'S RIGHT. JUST AS SAWAKO AMAKAWA GAVE A PROTECTIVE CHARM TO HER GRANDSON...
THE KAMI-ZAKURA SEAL IS TOUGH.
BUT I JUST NOW TORE A TEMPORARY HOLE INTO IT.
KIN (SHING)
AND INTO YOUR WORLD—

AH...
HFF!
HFF!
PASHI (BZZT)
PARI (BZZT)
HA
GASP

MENAGERIE 32: A GRAY DAY, AN EVER-CHANGING CAT

SHIZUKU
UNAUTHORIZED TRESPASSERS WILL BE EXECUTED... YOU KNOW
YOU WILL NOT FIND ANYTHING IN THE MIZUCHI'S ROOM, YOUNG LORD.
!
O-OH REALLY?
HER NATURE IS WATER. ALL IS WASHED AWAY WITH-OUT A TRACE.
.....
HER ONLY BELONG-INGS ARE CLOTHES.

WHAT TROUBLES YOU, YOUNG LORD?
SHE'S NEVER ONCE DISAPPEARED WITHOUT TELLING ME FIRST...
...EVEN THOUGH IT WAS JUST BY NAME, SHIZUKU WAS HERE TO KEEP AN EYE ON ME.
WATER ALWAYS FLOWS FROM A HIGHER PLACE TO A LOWER ONE.
THIS IS OUT OF THE ORDINARY, SO IT MEANS THAT SOMETHING'S HAPPENED.
I JUST...
GU (CLENCH)
HOHH... IS THAT YOUR SIXTH SENSE AS A DEMON SLAYER?
DROP THE SARCASM.

YOU ARE GETTING CARRIED AWAY BY YOUR IMAGINA-TION.
I HAVE A BAD FEELING.
LIKE WHEN YOU WENT TO DUEL WITH KUESU... I FEEL LIKE I'LL REGRET IT IF I DON'T DO SOMETHING!
GA (GRAB)

HIMARI, YOU KNOW SOMETHING, DON'T YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY WITH SUCH AN ACCUSATION...?
BA (SNATCH)
IF YOU KNOW ANYTHING, THEN TELL ME. DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
IS THERE SOMETHING I CAN DO!?
PARDON?
YOU'RE ACTING STRANGE TOO, HIMARI.
PLEASE, IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO SHIZUKU...!
MUKU (IRK)
MUKU
ARE YOU THAT...
HUH?
GU (GRAB)
ZA
WAIT ...
WHOA!
WHOA!
ZA (ZSH)
WHOA!

ARE YOU THAT CONCERNED FOR HER?
GON (BONK)
ZUDAAAN (KERSPLAT)
OUCH...
!!

MM...
AH! S-SORRY...
SO SOFT
YOU HAVE GROWN ATTACHED TO HER.
GUNYU (SMOOSH)
SPIKY SWITCH
OR PERHAPS 'TIS YOUR KINDNESS ...
PLEASE UNDERSTAND. THAT BENEV-OLENCE OF YOURS...
...CAN BE TAKEN AS UNWELCOME PITY.
GOKU (GULP)
HIMARI...

SO YOU DO KNOW SOMETHING, AFTER ALL.
TAKE THAT
PIKU (TWITCH)
AH.
NN...!
MUNI (SQUISH)
MUNI
MUNI
TCH. HE HAS ME RIGHT WHERE HE WANTS ME...
THE YOUNG LORD REALLY DOES ENJOY HIS BOSOMS
HRM?
GYU (HUG)
...PLEASE, DON'T HIDE IT. TELL ME.
I DON'T WANT TO... LOSE ANY-BODY ELSE.
WELL, WE ARE LIKE FAMILY NOW AND ALL.
IT GETS LONELY WHEN EVEN ONE PERSON'S MISSING.
I SEE. ...BUT...
ZURU (SLIDE)

EH?
YOU REALLY ARE TOO SOFT, YOUNG LORD.
TECHNICALLY, YES...
BUT WHAT IF THERE WAS A HIDDEN DESCEN-DANT, LIKE YOU?
WH-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
ISN'T THE JIBASHIRI FAMILY THAT DESTROYED SHIZUKU'S TRIBE LONG GONE...!?
WHEN AN AYAKASHI FULL OF HATRED COMES UP AGAINST A DEMON SLAYER, BLOOD WILL BE SHED.

DAN (BAM)
WHAT WOULD SHIZU...
KYEOW!
GUI (YANK)
WHOA!
R-RINKO.
I'M GETTING A CLEAR SHOT HERE
DON (BADUM)
...YES.
I WANNA KNOW TOO. WON'T YOU SHARE WITH US ALL?
BASHA (SPLASH)
DOKA (CRACK)
KYAAH!!

THIS LOATHSOME ENERGY...!
THERE'S NO MISTAKING IT...!
YOU... ARE A BLOOD RELATIVE OF THE JIBA-SHIRI!!
ZAWA
IT'S FAINT... ...BUT...
ZAWA (BZZ)
THIS SMELL.
THIS GRITTY SENSA-TION.
...THIS GIRL'S AN AYAKASHI!?
WHY, JINGUUJI-SAN!? WHY!?
ZA (SKSH)
BASA (FWAP)
IF SHE CHALLENGES YOU, YOU HAVE TO FIGHT.
THAT'S THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AYAKASHI AND DEMON SLAYERS.

PON (PAT)
B-BUT I'M NOT A DEMON SLAYER!!
BICHA (SPLASH)
I WILL CARVE OUT THE VENGEANCE OF THE MIZUCHI...
...ON YOUR BODY... YOU KNOW.
DON'T WORRY...I WON'T KILL YOU RIGHT AWAY.
I SHALL HAVE ALL SORTS OF FUN WITH YOU FIRST.
BIKU (JUMP)
JIBASHIRI? MIZUCHI?
WHAT... AND WHEN ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
EEK!
OOOOO (RUMBLE)
AND ONLY WHEN I'VE HAD MY FILL, ONLY THEN WILL YOU DIE...YOU KNOW.

SO THAT'S HOW DEEP HER GRUDGE RUNS?
.....THAT SQUIRT GAVE INTO HER HATE A LOT EASIER THAN I THOUGHT.
STILL...
...YOU HAD THE VOICES OF YOUR ALLIES AND YUU-CHAN'S KINDNESS BY YOUR SIDE.
HOW COULD THEY HAVE NOT REACHED YOU...?
AAAAA SSSSHHH

IN THE END, AN AYAKASHI IS JUST AN AYAKASHI...
SO BE IT. I'LL DESTROY...
...THAT ROTTEN WORLD OF YOURS TONIGHT.
JA (SWISH)
KYAH!?
BASHI (SLASH)
!!
HARA (FLAP)
12

N.....
ZU (SKID)
I CAN CRUSH YOU, DROWN YOU, OR DISMEMBER YOU...
WATER IS SO VERSA-TILE...
ZAAAA (SSSHHH)
WHICH SHOULD I GO WITH... YOU KNOW?
NOOOO!!!
—AND THERE YOU HAVE IT.

SHE WAS PLANNING ON PUTTING IT TO REST WITHOUT YOU EVER KNOWING, YOUNG LORD.
NOT AS THOUGH I HAD ANY CONNECTION TO IT...
I ONLY KEPT QUIET OUT OF CONSID-ERATION FOR HER.
...WHEN WE FIRST MET HER, SHIZUKU HATED DEMON SLAYERS SO MUCH.
I'D TOTALLY FORGOTTEN...
.....
IT'S POSSIBLE SHIZUKU WILL BE GOING AFTER THE JIBASHIRI DESCENDANT... AND THAT WILL GIVE KUESU AN EXCUSE TO ATTACK HER.
UGH, THAT WICKED WITCH IS ALWAYS UP TO NO GOOD.
IT'S ALL LOCK AND LOAD WITH HER
...WE'RE GOING, HIMARI.
SU (STAND)

I KNOW, I KNOW. I'M NOT GONNA STOP YOU!
RINKO.
...INDEED. I KNEW YOU WOULD SAY THAT.
HMPH
COME NOW, WE MUST MAKE HASTE.
RIGHT. THANKS!
MAKE SURE YOU COME BACK WITH HER.
...MAKE HASTE, I SAID, BUT...
I'LL HAVE DINNER READY FOR EVERY-ONE!

...WHERE... IS SHE?
THIS WILL NOT DO, YOUNG LORD.
I KNOW NOT.
SHE'S NOT ANSWERING HER PHONE EITHER
!
SHE'S 17.8 KILOMETERS NORTH OF HERE.
KAGE-TSUKI... SAN?
THE KASHA.
WE PIN-POINTED HER LOCATION THROUGH CLAIRVOY-ANCE.
IT IS RELIABLE INFORMA-TION.

BUT IF YOU SHOULD INTERVENE, YUUTO AMAKAWA—
I'M COUNTING ON YOU... YOU KNOW.
PEACE OUT.
PLEASE, GO AND SAVE SHIZUKU FROM HERSELF.
PARA (FLAP)
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY.
IF YOU USE "SHUKUCHI," IT SHOULD TAKE NO MORE THAN HALF AN HOUR.
TO (TMP)
I PROMISED SHIZUKU AS MUCH.
I WILL NOT MEDDLE IN HER RE-VENGE.
GOSO (DIG)
DAN! (LEAP)
YES, YES.
GOT IT. YOU CAN COUNT ON ME...
HIMARI.

HOLD ON TIGHTER, OR YOU WILL FALL TO YOUR DOOM.
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO HOLD ON TO... AND THERE'S MY ALLERGIES TOO.
WATCH WHERE YOU PUT YOUR HANDS, SIR!

DON'T DO ANY-THING RASH!
ZURU (SNIFFLE)
WAIT FOR US, SHIZUKU.

—THE HUMANS WORSHIPPED US AS WATER GODS, THOUGH WE NEVER BESEECHED THEM TO DO SO. THEY MADE SACRIFICES TO US, THOUGH WE NEVER ASKED. AND THEY SUBJUGATED US, THOUGH THEY HAD NO CLAIM UPON US...YOU KNOW.
DEMON SLAYERS ARE EVIL...YOU KNOW.
WHO I SHOULD REALLY KILL... ARE THE JIBASHIRI AND JINGUUJI, LIKE YOU...YOU KNOW.
BUT YOU'RE DOING THE SAME THING TO SOMEONE WHO'S NOT EVEN DIRECTLY INVOLVED, DON'T YOU SEE?
WE OUGHT TO BE MORE UNDERSTANDING OF ONE ANOTHER, AS OPPOSED TO INDISCRIMINATELY KILLING EACH OTHER SIMPLY BECAUSE WE'RE DEMON SLAYERS AND AYAKASHI.
I DON'T LIKE GOING ON THE ATTACK JUST 'COS SOMEONE'S AN AYAKASHI.
I WANT US TO BE ABLE TO LIVE IN HARMONY!
I CAN HEAR YUUTO PLEADING WITH ME FROM WITHIN—
BUT IT'S TOO LATE..... YOU KNOW.....

I WILL KILL THE LAST OF THE JIBASHIRI...
HFF...
HFF~
WHAT DO I DO? HOW DID I GET INTO THIS MESS...
WHY DID JIN-GUUJI-SAN SET ME UP ...?
KORO (WOBBLE)
!
THOUGH IT WAS WATER IT HURTS AS BAD AS IF I'D BEEN STRUCK BY SOMETHING SOLID...
IF SHE'D BEEN SERIOUS, NO DOUBT I'D BE DEAD NOW...
.....

MENAGERIE 33: THE NIGHT OF THE CAT, THE WET SNAKE

THE MOISTURE IN THE AIR...
...CARRIES YOUR FEAR...
ぴちゃ…
BICHA (SPLISH)

FU...FU...! IT'S NO USE TRYING TO RUN AND HIDE...YOU KNOW.
POTA (DRIP)
ぽた
POTA
ぽた…

IT'S NO FUN IF YOU'RE ONLY GOING TO RUN...
IF YOU WON'T FIGHT, THEN...
...DIE ...YOU KNOW.

NOOOO !!
PICHA (SPLASH)
SHUPA (SLISH)
!
N.....
ZAZAZAZA (ZZZZSH)
IS THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT... YOU KNOW?
BASHAAA (SSSHHH)
COLD ...!
ACK ...!

...TO COAX THE JIBASHIRI OUT OF YOU!?
OR WILL IT TAKE A LITTLE MORE TEASING...
BASHU (FLOOSH)
PAKIN (SHING)
PAAAAA (G-OOOW)
THAT'S ENOUGH.
SNAKE.

WHAT ...?
DEMON SLAYERS AND AYAKASHI EXIST TO FIGHT ONE ANOTHER.
THE DEMISE OF THE MIZUCHI AT THE HANDS OF THE JIBASHIRI WAS MERELY A RESULT OF THAT.
...DID YOU COME HERE JUST TO MOCK ME, JIN-GUUJI... YOU KNOW?
I SUPPOSE A BEAST IS ONLY CAPABLE OF A BEAST'S LEVEL OF INTELLI-GENCE.
IF YOU'D WON, THEN GOOD FOR YOU. IF YOU'D DEFEATED THEM INSTEAD, THEN FINE.
BUT YOU DIDN'T. YOU WERE BEATEN, AND YOUR KIND LOST.
NO MORE, NO LESS.
JA (SWISH)
PAN (SLASH)

YOU WERE BLESSED WITH DECADES MORE LIFE THAN THEY.
YOU ALONE SURVIVED, AND THE JIBASHIRI PERISHED.
...YOU KNOW.
DO YOU REALLY THINK I WOULD AGREE TO SUCH RIDICULOUS LOGIC...?
YOU WERE GIVEN A CHOICE.
TO EITHER FORGET EVERYTHING AND LEAD A NEW LIFE...
...OR BE REDUCED TO AN ANIMAL DROWNING IN YOUR OWN HATRED...
YOU CHOSE POORLY.
I, KUESU JINGUUJI, OF THE TWELFTH DEMON-SLAYER FAMILY...
...SHALL VANQUISH THE DEMON THAT STANDS BEFORE ME!

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT BEING A DEMON SLAYER OR AYAKASHI OR JIBA-SHIRI!
NOT A THING!
I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH ANY OF THIS!!
BUT THIS DAY, THAT WOMAN THERE...
...DIES, YOU KNOW!!
I'VE HAD IT!!
HA! FINE. GO AHEAD AND TRY!!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH! I DON'T KNOW ANY-THING!!
TAN (TMP)
IDIOT! STAY BEHIND ME...!
DA (DASH)
MADMAN
THIS IS VENGEANCE FOR THEM ALL...!!

ZAN
(SLASH)

...YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO MAKE YOUR GRAND ENTRANCE FOR A WHILE YET...
MY APOLOGIES.
BUT THERE IS ONE WHOSE WORDS HOLD MORE WEIGHT FOR ME THAN YOURS.
...CAT.
FWASA FWAD

BO (BOOM)
BO
GOUN (VWOOM)
TCH!
WHY'D THE CAT HAVE TO SHOW UP NOW...?
OUT OF THE WAY, HIMARI!!
BAKIN (SHING)
ZA (SKSH)
JA (CLICK)
KUH!

I SERVE THE CURRENT HEAD OF THE AMAKAWA FAMILY OF DEMON SLAYERS, YUUTO AMAKAWA, AS HIS BODY-GUARD.
...ARE YOU THE ONE SHIZUKU'S AFTER?
MY ORDERS ARE TO KEEP YOU FROM TAKING ANOTHER STEP, KUESU JINGUUJI!
HUH!?
WH-WHAT DID YOU SAY...?
YOU MEAN YUU-CHAN'S—
WH-WHO ARE YOU...?

I'M LIKE YOU...A DESCEN-DANT.
I ONLY JUST FOUND OUT RECENTLY THOUGH.
ARE YOU ALSO... FIGHT-ING?
I DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH POWER YET...
DEFENDING MYSELF IS THE MOST I CAN DO.
I WON'T LET ANY MORE HARM COME TO YOU.
YUUTO AMAKAWA...
I ALSO...
...WANT TO SAVE HER.
I WAS SO SURE...YOU WOULDN'T FORGIVE ME THIS TIME.

I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO SEE ME LIKE THIS.
BICHA (FLIP)
ひいちゃ…
THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO KNOW.
I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO COME.
...YOU KNOW.
...BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO STAND BETWEEN ME AND REVENGE...
ス…
...EVEN IF YOU ARE MY OPPO-NENT...
ポン
DOU (GLOVE)

THE LIGHT FERRY...
I... SEE... YOU KNOW.
.....
SA (HIDE)
SA
EE...!
DA (DASH)
...YOU WOULD DO WELL TO NOT UNDER-ESTIMATE ME, AMAKAWA DEMON SLAYER... YOU KNOW.
OOOOOO (RUMBLE)
THIS MIZUCHI WILL HAVE NO PROBLEM SLICING THROUGH BOTH YOU AND THAT WOMAN... YOU KNOW.

YOUNG LORD!
TRUST THE YOUNG LORD...
DON'T MOVE!!
YUU-CHAN!!
SHIZUKU!!

BASHA
(SPLASH)
WHY...?

...REVENGE FOR...MY COMRADES... MY MOTHER AND SISTER...
YOPO (WOBBLE)
MY REVENGE AGAINST THE DEMON SLAYERS... I...
I... LIVED ONLY FOR THAT SOLE..... PURPOSE, YOU KNOW...
PON (PAT)
YOU KNOW YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT THAT.

I... I.....
WHY DID YOU BEFRIEND US? WHY DID YOU LIVE WITH US?
THEN WHY DID YOU COME TO US?
YUU... TO?
THEN DON'T LEAVE US NOW.
DID YOU REALLY THINK WE AND KAGE-TSUKI-SAN WOULDN'T CARE IF YOU SUDDENLY DISAP-PEARED?
YOU WANTED A PLACE WHERE YOU COULD LIVE IN PEACE, DIDN'T YOU!?
DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT. YOU LIVED ONLY FOR REVENGE ...?
I SWEAR I'LL NEVER ALLOW IT!!
...THEN YOU'RE FORBIDDEN TO LEAVE WITHOUT PERMIS-SION!
IF YOU FORCED YOUR WAY INTO MY DAILY LIFE AND MADE YOUR-SELF AT HOME IN MY HOME...
ひろちょん
PICNIC DID

.....
UUH... AH.
AAAH...
AAAAAAAAH...!

UWEH...
AAAH...
CHIN (CHK)
UWAAH...!
AAAH!

PECHI (SLAP)
!
I'D LIKE TO DO MORE THAN JUST SLAP YOU RIGHT NOW, BUT I'LL LET YOU OFF WITH THIS.
MIKARI-SAN...?
WHY'D YOU DO THIS, KUESU?
I TOLD YOU BEFORE. DON'T MAKE ANY MOVES ON SHIZUKU AND HI-MARI!
YUU-CHAN...
IF...IF I EVER AWOKE TO MY POWERS LIKE HIM...
...I'D ALSO BE ON *HIS SIDE.*
!
SU (SWF)

...I'LL ONLY SAY THIS ONCE...YOU KNOW.
...THANK YOU, YOU KNOW.
BOSS CRUMBLED

WELL, WELL. BEING THANKED BY A MIZUCHI, EH, TWILIGHT MOON?
MROW. MROW!
NOT TO MENTION THIS ALSO RARE JOB SO CREATURE TO THANK ANYONE

DON'T BLAME KUESU...YOU KNOW.
FOR THAT I AM THANK-FUL...YOU KNOW.
SHE LET ME MEET RANKA MIKARI AND GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO SETTLE THIS...

...FIRST THEY FIGHT, NOW THEY'RE THANKING EACH OTHER. I DON'T GET IT.

R-RIDICU-LOUS!
BEING THANKED BY AN AYAKASHI MEANS NOT ONE WHIT TO ME!
THEN WE'LL JUST LEAVE IT AT THAT... YOU KNOW.
KURU (FWIP)

...THE HOLE THAT KUESU OPENED UP IS ALREADY CLOSED.
I FEEL NOTHING COMING FROM YOU, SO YOU HAVE NO NEED TO WORRY.
OH, UH... REALLY? ...THANKS.
INCIDENTALLY, I TOO AM AN AYAKASHI
HUH!?
NYERHE.
SU (SWF)
BIKU (JUMP)
C'MON. LET'S GO HOME, SHIZUKU.
RINKO'S WAITING FOR US WITH DINNER READY.
GUESS I'LL COME HOME... YOU KNOW.
...OH WELL.

I'M GOING TO KEEP ON IN THIS WORLD WITH MY FRIENDS...
MOTHER, SISTER, EVERYONE... PLEASE FORGIVE ME... YOU KNOW.
THE BOILED FOODS ARE TOO SWEET.
YOU REALLY HAVE TO WATCH YOUR CALORIES, OR YOU'LL GET FAT.
YOU'VE ALREADY GOT A LITTLE PAUNCH GOING
MEKI (SNAP)
...THE SAURY'S OVER-COOKED... IT'S ALL DRY...YOU KNOW.
THE RADISH IN THE FUROFUKI PASSES... BUT THE ONE I MAKE IS BETTER... YOU KNOW.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS BOIL IT, THOUGH
NI (GRIN)
RINKO, BE STRONG
INDEED.
YOU CAN'T KILL ON AN EMPTY STOMACH... YOU KNOW.
URRRGH!! YOU CAME BACK STARVING FROM A DO-OR-DIE BATTLE, SO DON'T EAT MY FOOD WHILE GRIPING ABOUT IT THE WHOLE TIME!!

SFX: MOKU (CHEW) MOKU

I'M DROWNING! HEEEELP...!
WATER !?
ゴボ GOBO
MY EYES ARE ALL WATERY. AND MY NOSE IS RUNNING... WAIT.
THE WATER'S OVER MY HEAD...!
BO
ボボボ
BO
BO
NO, HIMARI. THESE ALLERGIES ARE KILLING ME.
CUT ME SOME SLACK.....
GOBO (BLUB)
ゴボボ

MENAGERIE 34: FULL-THROTTLE AFTERIMAGE, VERSION CAT

HAH!!
OH... IT WAS JUST A DREAM?
BICHA (SPLISH)
UH-OH... DON'T TELL ME THIS WATER IS...
BA (FWAP)
EEEP!
SHI...

WH-WHY'S MY ROOM FLOODED!?
AND PUT SOME PANTIES ON!!
...SHIZUKU.
DON'T ASK ME SOMETHING SO OBVIOUS... YOU KNOW.
I MANIPULATE WATER, THAT'S WHY...
ぽた POTA
ぽた POTA (PLIP)
CHIRO (LAP)
BUT WHY—
.....
...I DIDN'T DEFEAT THE JIBASHIRI DESCENDANT...YOU KNOW.
-SLITHER-
SFX: PUI (FWIP)

BUT SO LONG AS YUUTO...IS THE YUUTO I TRUST, I WILL REFRAIN FROM ATTACKING YOU...YOU KNOW.
THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'VE FORGIVEN YOU...YOU KNOW.
EH?
RANKA MIKARI, YOUR LIFE...IS IN THE HANDS OF THE AMAKAWA DEMON SLAYER... YOU KNOW.
...YOUR EXISTENCE SUPER-SEDED MY DESIRE FOR REVENGE...
IN OTHER WORDS...
!
I-I SEE.
SO...
YOU TOLD ME NOT TO LEAVE YOU...
AND SNAKES ARE PERSISTENT
SAWA (GRAZE)
さわ
...SO I'M GOING TO HOLD ON NICE AND TIGHT... YOU KNOW.

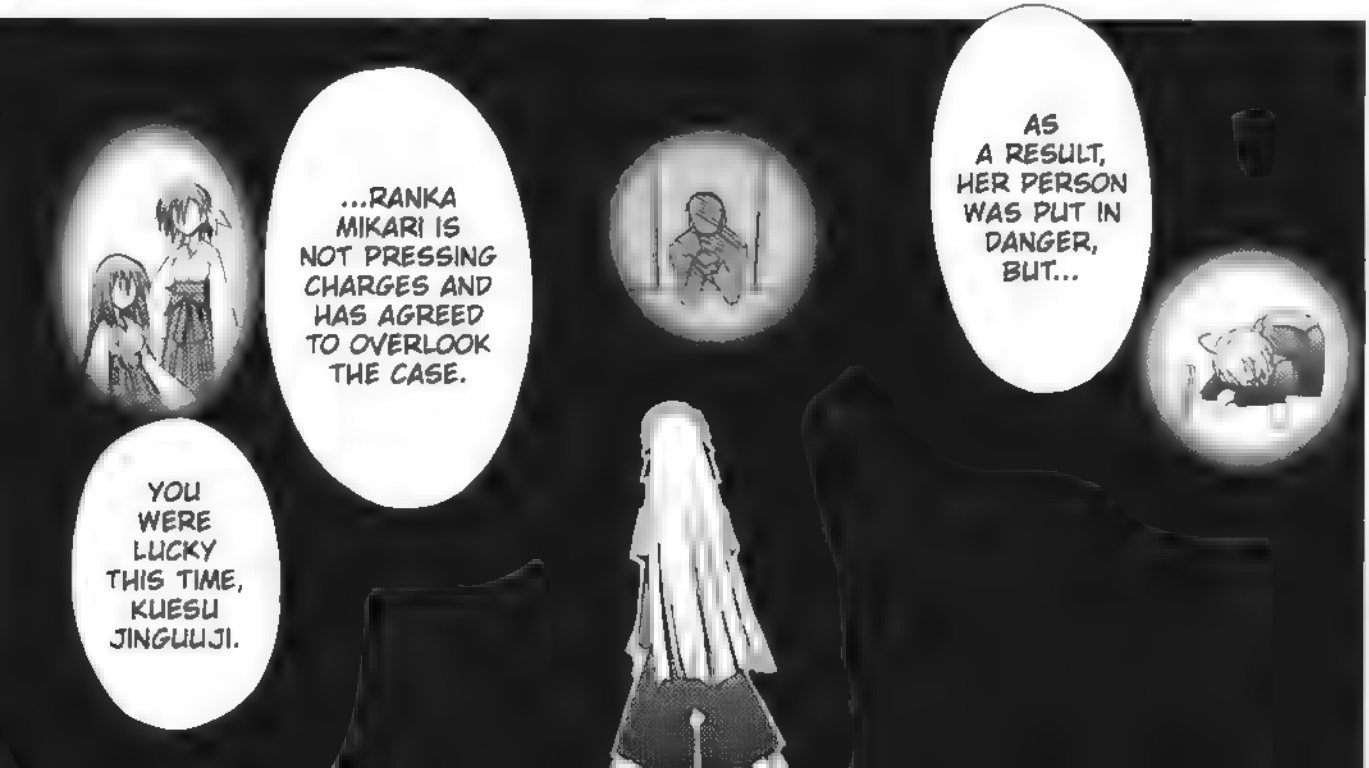
BUN (FLING)
BECHO (SPLAT)
GA (GRAB)

GOOD DAY, YOUNG LORD. THOUGH IT MUST BE A RATHER AWFUL MORNING INDEED TO WAKE UP THUS DRENCHED.
FORGIVE ME FOR FAILING TO STOP THE MIZUCHI FROM SNEAKING INTO YOUR BED LAST NIGHT.
GRRR...
PERHAPS I SHOULD RETURN TO MY ROUTINE OF RETIRING TO YOUR BED SO THAT I MAY CONTINUE MY GUARD OVER YOU!
UUUH, THAT MAKES ME HAPPY AND SCARED AT THE SAME TIME...
WHAT... THE?
YORO (WOBBLE)
YOUNG LORD?

SURE ENOUGH, DEMON SLAYERS ALWAYS LAND ON THEIR FACES... YOU KNOW.
BAKA (SLAP)
UWAH! YOUNG LORD!? WHY, HE IS POSITIVELY BURNING UP WITH FEVER!
BAKA
IDIOT!
UUUH...

PATA (SPLAT)
.....

...YES, THAT IS CORRECT.
I SEE, SO YOU ONLY RELEASED THE SEAL ON RANKA MIKARI FOR YOUR OWN PERSONAL REASONS AND NOT TO SEEK A PROMOTION IN RANK. IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?


...RANKA MIKARI IS NOT PRESSING CHARGES AND HAS AGREED TO OVERLOOK THE CASE.
AS A RESULT, HER PERSON WAS PUT IN DANGER, BUT...
YOU WERE LUCKY THIS TIME, KUESU JINGUUJI.

PIKU (TWITCH)
IMAGINE IF A FEUD DID BREAK OUT ALL BECAUSE OF A CERTAIN GOOD-FOR-NOTHING.
I KNOW SOMEBODY WHO COULD TAKE A LESSON IN APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR!
SHE KNOWS THE IMPLICATIONS SUCH ACTIONS MIGHT CAUSE...
SHE WAS LIKELY AFRAID OF CREATING A DIVIDE AMONG THE TWELVE FAMILIES.
THE OTHER DAY...
GYU (CLENCH)
...AYAKASHI THAT LOOKED LIKE THE NINE-TAILS AND SHUTEN-DOUJI ENTERED THE KANTO REGION FROM WESTERN JAPAN.

THEY PASSED RIGHT BY YOUR GUYS.
YOUR MIRRORS REALLY MUST BE SOMETHING.
!!
WH-WHAT DID YOU—!? IT IS NOT CERTAIN THEY PASSED BY HERE!!
OH, I'M SORRY.
IF NOT FOR THE OPTICAL INFORMATION, YOUR MIRRORS WOULD BE HAZY.
THE THIRD-RANKED... KAGAMIMORI SEALING MAGIC.
IT'S TOO BAD THEY DIDN'T TAKE A PEEK.

Y-YOU'RE TWELFTH RANK, SO WHO ARE YOU TO TALK TO US LIKE THAT...!!?
RESTRAIN YOURSELF, HISUZU.
B-BUT KASURI-NEE-SAMA!
WE HAVE APPRE-HENDED THE TWO CREATURES OF WHOM YOU SPEAK.
!!
SO LONG AS WE ARE NOT ORDERED TO EXTERMINATE OR DESTROY THEM, WE OF THE KAGA-MIMORI WILL TAKE NO ACTION.
WE ARE DEMON SLAYERS.
UNLIKE YOU OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION WHO KILL EVERY-THING IN SIGHT AT THE MERE MENTION OF AYAKASHI.
SO THERE YOU HAVE IT, JINGUUJI-KUN. I'M DOING EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO KEEP YOU FROM BECOM-ING PAWNS FOR THE GOVERN-MENT.
I DON'T MEAN TO MEDDLE IN PERSONAL AFFAIRS, BUT I'M GOING TO ASK YOU TO NOT OVERSTEP YOUR BOUNDS.
YOU MAY KEEP AN EYE ON THE NINE-TAILS AND SHUTEN-DOUJI, BUT NOTHING MORE.
BUT!!

AND TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE ANY MORE DEMON SLAYERS.
...I UNDER-STAND.
NIYA (SMIRK)
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHAT BECAME OF THE SIXTH RANK?
!
PUBLIC SAFETY HAD ITS EYE ON HIM, BUT HAS HE PROVEN HIMSELF USEFUL?

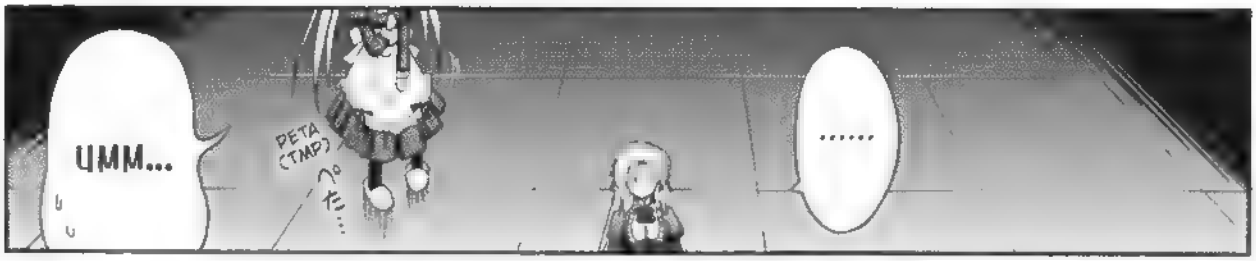
...WASN'T I GIVEN SOLE JURISDICTION OVER THE YUUTO AMAKAWA CASE?
OH, I SEE.
THE BLIND LEADING THE BLIND, IS IT?
THE AMAKAWA FAMILY'S SUPPOSED TO HAVE A VERY CAPABLE CAT WITH THEM.
HAVING BEEN RAISED A NORMAL BOY, HE'LL PROBABLY KEEP IT WITH HIM UNTIL HE MATURES AS A DEMON SLAYER.

KUH-HEE... IF HE CATCHES MY FANCY...
...I'LL COMMIT THEM TO MEMORY.

OH KUE-SUUU.
YUU-CHAN DOESN'T NEED SOME CAT. HE'S GOT ME ...!

PLEASE BRING SOME CONCRETE STATS ON THE SIXTH-RANK BOY.
HITSUGI ...

OVER AND OUT! NEE-SAMA, LET'S HAVE TEA!
FU
MEETING ADJOURNED.
WELL, I'M DONE HERE. I'M GONNA GET ME SOME SLEEP.
FU (FIZZT)


UMM...
PETA (TMP)
.....

OSORU (TIMID) おそる
OSORU おそる
FORCED INTO WORKING FOR HER
K-KUESU-SAN...?
GIRORI (GLARE)
E-EEK!?
BIKU (JOLT)
C-COMING RIGHT UP!
LIZ-SAN, WOULD YOU MAKE ME SOME TEA!? YOUR FINEST BLEND!!
IF YUU-CHAN AND I FELT LIKE IT, WE COULD TAKE OUT THE NINE-TAILS AND SHUTEN, NO SWEAT.
HMPH.

IN A SLOW STATE
HHHNGH...
UUGH...
HE MAY BE A LITTLE SLOW, BUT IF YUU-CHAN WERE WITH ME, I JUST KNOW HE'D...!
KARA (RATTLE)
カラ
THE HUMAN BODY IS SO FRAGILE... YOU KNOW.
HMPH!
EVERY PHYSICIAN THAT HAS COME TO SEE HIM AGREES 'TIS JUST THE COMMON COLD.
INSOLENT FOOL. THIS IS ALL BECAUSE YOU CHILLED THE YOUNG LORD'S BODY SO.
ALL THE WATER'S BEEN DRIED OUT OF YUUTO'S ROOM...YOU KNOW.
SHOULD WE MOVE HIM UP-STAIRS... YOU KNOW?
NO, HERE ON GROUND LEVEL, HE IS NEAR THE WASHROOM AND KITCHEN.
OH DEAR. I LEFT THE STOVE ON.

SFX: FURI (SWING) FURI

MM-HM
THAT'S NOT YOUR REAL REASON!
YOU JUST DON'T WANT TO EAT THEM YOURSELF!
AND YOU STAY BACK, SHIZUKU!
I DON'T NEED THEM FOR COOK-ING.
ALL I WANT IS FOR THE ONIONS TO BRING YOUR FEVER DOWN.
NIJIRI (SPOON)
NIJIRI
にじり

GYAAAAAAH!
YUUTO?
ゾクッ...
BIKU (PERK)
WHAT WAS THAT... BAD FEELING ?
AND HIMARI'S OUT TOO...
MAYBE THEY'RE BEING ATTACKED BY ANOTHER AYAKASHI...
TH-THAT BETTER NOT BE IT, YUUTO...
PLEASE BE OKAY!

I APOL-OGIZE, YOUNG LORD. 'TWAS ONLY IN SPORT.
SOB! SOB! SOB!
...YOU COULD'VE USED...ONLY ONE....
HIS ANUS HAS BEEN EXPLOITED YOU KNOW
...I DON'T THINK THAT WORKED... YOU KNOW.
.....
HITA (TMP) ひた ひたひた... HITA HITA
UUUUH...
YOU WAIT HERE...YOU KNOW.
I'LL MAKE HIM SOME GRUEL ...
WARMING UP THE BODY IS THE BEST THING FOR A COLD.
GIVE ME SOME ROOM
GAGAN (SHOCK)
SORA (RUST.)
もそもそ
MOSO (RUSTLE)
UUH ...?
HI-HIMARI !?
WHAT THE!?

NOW, NO NEED TO BE RESERVED.
YEAH, BUT...
GOSO (DIG)
WORRY NOT. AN AYAKASHI CANNOT CATCH A HUMAN COLD.
THIS IS BAD... YOU'LL CATCH IT TOO, HIMARI.
MREEEOW.
AND I AM A CAT! NOTHING CAN WARM YOU UP BETTER, SEE?
MMPH...?
PUNYU (SMOOSH)
ZURU (SLIP)
IT WOULD SERVE AS PROOF OF HOW CLOSE WE ARE TO ONE ANOTHER.
...I ALMOST WISH I COULD CATCH YOUR COLD, YOUNG LORD.

YOUNG LORD.
IF YOU ARE GOING TO TELL ME TO NOT ONLY FIGHT AS YOUR BODYGUARD, THEN RELY ON ME IN SITUATIONS LIKE THIS TOO.
I AM YOUR CAT.

NAAAAAAH!

WHY Youuuu!

I HEARD THEM SIZZLING!
SHUT UP AND BE QUIET, YOU CAT BURGLAR... YOU KNOW.
I CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF YOU FOR A MINUTE...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MIZUCHI!
YOU ALMOST SEARED MY LOVELY EARS!!

YOU DARE NOT DISROBE!
I SHALL BE THE ONE TO HEAL THE YOUNG LORD WITH MY BODY!!
UUUH...
スル… SURU... (SLIP)
...I KNEW IT. I'LL HAVE TO WARM YOU UP MYSELF...YOU KNOW.
THIS TIME I'LL WARM YOU WITH THE HOTTER FLUIDS OF MY BODY...YOU KNOW.

AND SO TWO (+1) MORE WERE ADDED TO HELL.

.....
OH, REALLY? SO YOU THINK YOU COULD EAT AN OGRE RAW IN ONE BITE?
I'LL HAVE TO ASK A PRETTY LITTLE GIRL LIKE YOU TO CHEW WELL IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE EATING ANYTHING RAW...
MY TASTES ARE A LITTLE DIFFERENT.
THAT'S SO LIKE YOU, TAMA-SAN. ALWAYS EATING HEARTILY.
MOGYU (MUNCH)
もぎゅ
MOGYU
もぎゅ
IF IT WERE ME, I'D EAT IT AFTER IT'D BEEN COOKED.
I'VE GOTTEN LESS DARING OVER THE CENTURIES.
WHAT CAN I SAY? HA-HA-HA!
MOGYU
もぎゅ
もぎゅ
MOGYU
YOU MADE MORE LIVE CATCHES TODAY THAN USUAL.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THEM ALL?
BIKU (SHAKE)
ブルル

...I SEE.
.....
IF YOU GUYS DON'T WANT TO GET EATEN BY TAMA-SAN...
...YOU'LL HAVE TO SERVE SOME PURPOSE FOR US.
—

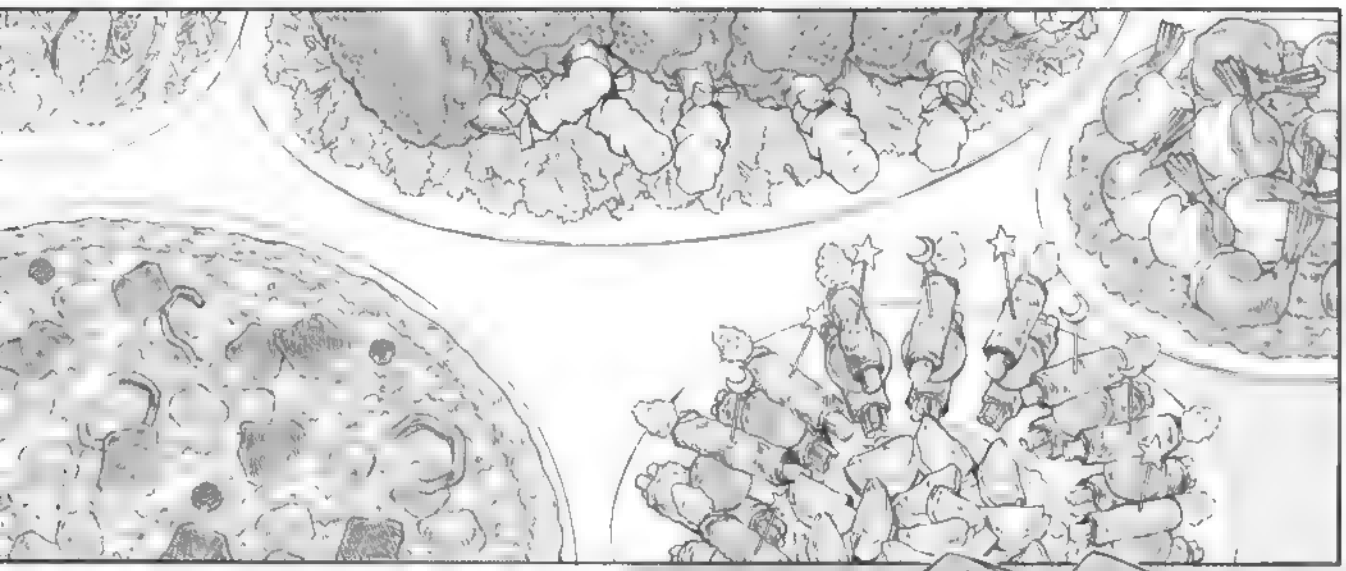
MENAGERIE 35: HOLY NIGHT CAT'S PREPARATIONS FOR WAR

CHRISTMAS, YOU SAY? SO 'TIS ESSENTIALLY THE BIRTHDAY OF SOME FAMOUS FIGURE IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY'S RELIGION.
A DAY TO COMMEMORATE A GOD WHO WAS BORN AS A HUMAN TO A PEOPLE TO WHOM THIS COUNTRY HAS ABSOLUTELY NO RELATION...AND YET EVERYONE CELEBRATES ANYWAY.
AM I COR-RECT?
WELL, YOU'RE NOT WRONG, BUT...
SHIZUKU, YOU TWISTED IT WHEN YOU EX-PLAINED IT TO HER.
IT'S THE TRUTH... YOU KNOW.
HUMANS LOVE THESE THINGS...
FORM, CONDUCT, APPEARANCES, TITLES...
TODAY'S PARTY IS LESS ABOUT TRUE BELIEFS AND MORE ABOUT HAVING A GOOD TIME...YOU KNOW.

RINKO AND THE GIRLS ENJOY SPECIAL OCCASIONS LIKE THIS...
CHA (CHAK)
NO SURPRISE THERE. THE WEALTHY HAVE ALWAYS ENJOYED HOLDING LAVISH DISPLAYS OF THEIR AFFLUENCE.
KON (KNOCK)
KON
YOU'RE TWISTING IT AGAIN.
MORE IMPORTANTLY... WHY DID YOU ACCEPT KUESU'S INVITATION ON A DAY LIKE TODAY...YOU KNOW?
HA-HA. SHE INCLUDED YOU AND HIMARI TOO, OKAY?
SUPA (POP)
PA (POP)
PAAAN (POPPP)
MERRY CHRISTMAAAAS!!
.....

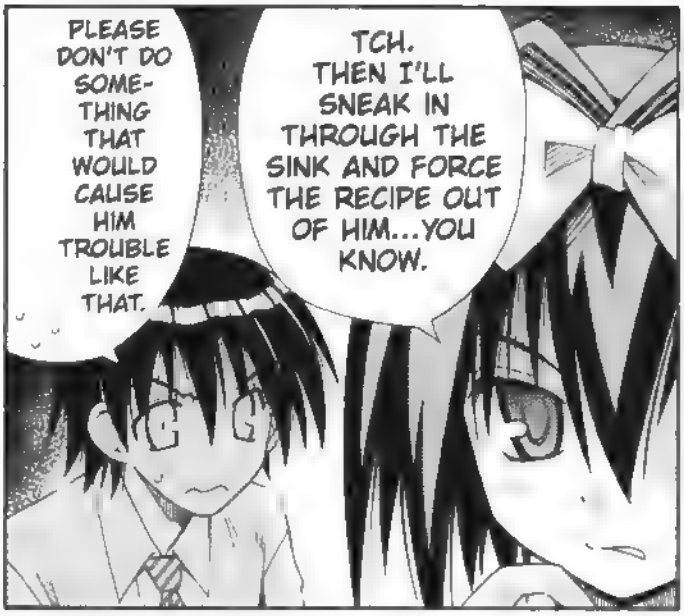
RINKO, NO NEED TO IMITATE HER.
WE COULDN'T WAIT ANYMORE AND STARTED WITHOUT YOU!
ARE THEY DRUNK?
NOW WE'RE ALL HERE!
YEAH!
HOH HOH HOH HOH! WELCOME. WE'RE SO GLAD TO SEE YOU.
OR SHOULD I SAY, YOU'RE LATE!
NICE DRESS
OH, YOU'RE HERE TOO, CLASS PRESIDENT?
RINKO ROPED ME IN WHEN SHE SAID SHE NEEDED HELP WITH DECORATIONS.
THANKS
PLEASE, MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE AND ENJOY.
WELL, I JUST SO HAPPEN TO FAVOR CLEVER GIRLS.
O-OH. THANKS.

HOH-HOH-HOH! THE CANDLE THAT BURNS TWICE AS BRIGHT, BURNS HALF AS LONG.
CLASS PRESIDENT, YOU PLAY TOO MANY VIOLENT GAMES.
IF SOMETHING HAPPENS HERE, I'LL BE THE FIRST TO DIE...
DOYOOOON (GLOOOOM)
どよーん
LIKE A CHRISTMAS MURDER
IT'S TELLING ME THERE'S DANGER NEAR...
.....
...BUT MY SIXTH SENSE IS TINGLING.
IS THIS ALCOHOLIC?
COME ON, HIMARI. OVER HERE!
I'M WITH YOU!
WE'RE HERE TO HAVE FUN TODAY!
OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT!



AND THE TEA'S NOT TOO BAD EITHER!
I'M HERE AS A GUEST TODAY
THESE DISHES WERE PREPARED BY THE RESTAURANT DOWNSTAIRS.
MOGU モグ
MOGU (CHEW) モグ
MOGU

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT.
WHAT, YOU THINK YOU'RE A CELEBRITY?
...CALL FOR THE CHEF... IT WAS GOOD, AND I WANT TO PRAISE HIM PERSONALLY.
PEACE
I GIVE IT THREE STARS


PLEASE DON'T DO SOMETHING THAT WOULD CAUSE HIM TROUBLE LIKE THAT.
TCH. THEN I'LL SNEAK IN THROUGH THE SINK AND FORCE THE RECIPE OUT OF HIM...YOU KNOW.

WHOA! CAREFUL, KUESU. DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE BEEN DRINKING...
IF I KNEW THE RECIPE, I COULD MAKE EVEN BETTER MEALS FOR AMAKAWA YOU KNOW
HERE, YUU-CHAN. CHEERS!

SFX: BUTSU (GRUMBLE) BUTSU

KABURAGI-SAN SAID HE WAS GOING TO PLAY SANTA FOR HIS DAUGHTER TODAY.
PLEASE DON'T CAUSE A SCENE THAT THEY'LL HAVE TO PAGE ME ABOUT.
I'M BEGGING YOU.
...ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT WHAT KABURAGI-SAN TALKED TO YOU ABOUT?
BUT FOR TWO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT SPECIES TO LIVE IN HARMONY, THEY NEED A LEADER TO STAND AT THE PINNACLE AND RULE OVER THEM
WHO'S GOING TO BE THAT LEADER?
YOU?
...NO, NOT REALLY.
WHAT, WHOA!?
GUI (HUG)
THEN FORGET ALL YOUR WORRIES FOR TONIGHT, AND LET'S CUT LOOSE!

C-COME ON, KUESU.
むにゅ
MUNYUN (SMOOSH)
!
OH, YUUTO AMA-KAWA. WHAT-EVER IS THE MATTER?
DO I SENSE SOME-THING?
ARE YOU POSSIBLY EXPERI-ENCING SOME TIGHTNESS IN YOUR PANTS?
FU-FU, GO AHEAD AND ENJOY IT, WHY DON'T YOU?
ドキ (DOKI (BADUM))
UNTIL ARMAGEDDON BEFALLS US, YOU AND I WILL BE...
ギュッ
GYU (HUG)
MERRY CHRIST-MAAAAS!!
スリパーン
SLIPAAAN (POP)
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU FLAT-CHESTED COMMONER!?
WHY DON'T YOU EAT CAKE NONSTOP UNTIL YOU BECOME A PORKER!?
AAAARGH!!
I'VE STOPPED AT THREE PIECES, SO DON'T TEMPT ME!
I MEAN DON'T TEMPT YUUTO!!
YOU SLUTTY WENCH!!

AH, THANKS.
HERE. IT'S NON-ALCO-HOLIC.
IT'S NOT EASY BEING POPULAR.
THOSE TWO WILL NEVER GET ALONG...
GYA! (GRIPE)
きゃー!
GYA!
きゃー!
YOU'RE RIGHT.
LOOKING AT THE CROWD, ONLY RINKO WAS WITH US THIS SAME TIME LAST YEAR.
YOU BET THERE IS...
I THOUGHT THIS KIND OF STUFF ONLY HAPPENED IN HAREM GAMES AND MANGA.
BUT HERE I SEE IT HAPPENING BEFORE MY VERY EYES.
YEAH, WELL THERE'S AN EXPLANA-TION...
PLEASE DON'T POKE FUN AT ME.
WHY IS THAT? ARE YOU A CHARMER, AND I JUST NEVER KNEW?
AND IT'S...

EVER SINCE SHE TRANS-FERRED TO OUR SCHOOL, THINGS CHANGED.
.....!!
I'VE NEVER MET THAT GIRL NEXT TO HER BEFORE.
HERE.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
...NOI-HARA-SAN.
HER PREVIOUS SCHOOL, FAMILY, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER.
NOBODY KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT HER.
NOT EVEN THE TEACH-ERS.
THAT'S JUST PLAIN WEIRD...
BUT THE WEIRDEST THING OF ALL...
...IS THAT NONE OF US HAVE STOPPED TO CON-SIDER...
...HOW STRANGE ANY OF THAT WAS BEFORE.

SOMETIMES YOU AND NOIHARA-SAN...
...FEEL LIKE YOU'RE SO FAR AWAY FROM THE REST OF US.
GRRR!
KIIIIIII!
SOMETIMES EVEN RINKO.
PRESI-DENT...
HEH.
BUT WHAT-EVER!
I'M JUST HAPPY WE CAN PARTY HERE ALL TOGETHER TODAY.
NO WORRIES

THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I CAN'T LET THIS WORLD AND MY EVERYDAY LIFE BE DE-STROYED.
I HAVE TO PROTECT THEM.
AH, LIZ-SAN. I'LL HAVE SOME CAKE TOO.
BUT NOT SO MUCH THAT WE FATTEN OURSELVES UP.
PRESI-DENT...
WE FEEL FAR AWAY... HUH?

WE'LL USE THESE BINGO CARDS I PREPARED AS ENTER-TAINMENT !!!
HOH! HOH! HOH!! I ACCEPT!!
IT'S A COMMONER'S DEVICE, BUT HANDY.
THAT DOES IT! NOW I'M MAD!!
YOU LECHEROUS WITCH! TODAY WE HAVE A MATCH!!
-BI (JAB)

BINGO
BINGO
BISHI (WHAP)
WE'RE IN!!
FIRST PLACE GETS TO DO WHATEVER THEY WANT WITH YUU-CHAN TODAY AND TOMORROW!!
YOU KNOW.
...SECOND PLACE?
WHAT ABOUT

!
...THEY DIDN'T EVEN ASK FOR MY OPINION.
...NO CHEATING...YOU KNOW.
TCH! I'D DO NO SUCH THING.
YOU CLICKED YOUR TONGUE AT ME!? YOU DID, DIDN'T YOU!?
...I SEE, SO THE CLASS PRESIDENT SAID THAT TO YOU.
MM-HM.
SAE-CHAN MIGHT HAVE ALSO NOTICED SOMETHING'S UP.
12!
SWEET, I GOT ONE!

THE FIRST SPELL I CAST WAS A SIMPLE ONE.
SO SHIZUKU'S AND KUESU'S PRESENCES ARE WEARING DOWN THE EFFECTS.
.....
WHAT IS IT, YOUNG LORD?
ABOUT THAT, THOUGH ...
NO MATTER. I SHALL RECAST IT TOMORROW.
NO NEED TO WORRY.

I GUESS WE HAVE TO DO THAT TO KEEP YOU GUYS A SECRET OR ELSE PEOPLE WOULD PANIC AND BLOW OUR COVER.
YOUNG LORD?
HM? OH.
BUT SEEING EVERYONE AT THE PARTY TODAY RE-AFFIRMED IT IN MY MIND.
IF IT MEANS PROTECTING THAT...
...THEN I'LL FIGHT.
YOU'RE PROBABLY NOT GOING TO WIN THEN.
BUT NONE IN A ROW.
I HAVE LOTS OF MATCHES.
IT IS POSSIBLE FOR HUMANS AND AYAKASHI TO OCCUPY THE SAME SPACE AND ENJOY EACH OTHER'S COMPANY.
HOH... HOH-HOH! I'M IN THE FINAL STRETCH!
HRMMM!

BUT I KNOW I WANT TO PROTECT THE EVERY-DAY LIFE OF ME AND MY FRIENDS WHERE WE CAN LIVE TOGETH-ER.
I CAN'T BECOME THE KIND OF LEADER KABURAGI-SAN TALKED TO ME ABOUT.
I DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO PLAY THE HERO, LIKE IN AN RPG, AND SAVE THE WORLD.
...THAT SOUNDS JUST FINE.
HUH?
SO EVEN IF THERE'S INTERNAL CONFLICT...
...OR THREATS FROM OUTSIDE, I'M GOING TO FACE THEM.
EVEN IF NOBODY ASKS ME, I'LL STILL DO IT.

YOU NEED NOT EVEN THINK ABOUT WHAT THE DEFENSE BRANCH FOR PUBLIC PEACE OR THE OTHER TWELVE FAMILIES HAVE TO SAY.
'TIS ONLY THAT PURE WISH OF YOURS IN WHICH YOU SHOULD TAKE PRIDE AS A DEMON SLAYER.

THAT PRIDE IS ENGRAVED UPON MY OWN BOSOM AS WELL.
FROM TODAY FORWARD, YOU ARE A TRUE DEMON SLAYER.
HIMARI...

HAVE YOU FALLEN FOR ME?
...WHY DO YOU STARE AT ME SO, YOUNG LORD?
ACK!
I WISH TO RAISE A TOAST TO YOU RATHER THAN SOME RELIGIOUS FIGURE.
AH! TH-THAT'S NOT...!
HMPH. I JEST.
HANG ON. I'LL GET YOU A REFILL.
...ALAS, MY GLASS IS EMPTY.

SOMEHOW JUST HEARING HIMARI SAY THAT TO ME MAKES ME FEEL BETTER...

HIMARI'S ALWAYS BEEN SUCH A SOURCE OF STRENGTH FOR ME.

I'M HAPPY WITH YOU JUST BEING WITH ME.

...IF HE WILL TRULY UTILIZE HIS POWERS AND SKILLS BEFORE I USE UP ALL MY POWERS AND DIE...
NOW TO SEE...
SO HE HAS FINALLY RESOLVED HIMSELF.
—UM...
BINGO... I GUESS?
HUH? HUH? WHY DO I SEE A FLAG OF DEATH HANGING OVER ME?
YUU-CHAN IS YOURS UNTIL THE END OF TOMORROW...
I NEVER GO BACK ON MY WORD...
DAMN!! WHERE IS GOD WHEN YOU NEED HIM!? IS HE OFF ON CHRIST-MAS!?
HOLD IT
SRRR
HUH?
I ALMOST FORGOT.

WHAT THE...!
GYU (HUG)
HUG!
...BUT SINCE I HAVE THE CHANCE...
UWAAAH. I'VE JUST RAISED THE FLAG OF DEATH EVEN HIGHER!
SHE'S BIGGER... THAN I THOUGHT.
GWAH!
SHE USUALLY NEVER SHOWS INTEREST IN THE OPPOSITE SEX, AND THE FIRST THING SHE DOES IS HUG HIM!!
THIS CHANGES THINGS... YOU KNOW.
OOOOO!!
SFX: GYUUUUU (HUUUUUG)

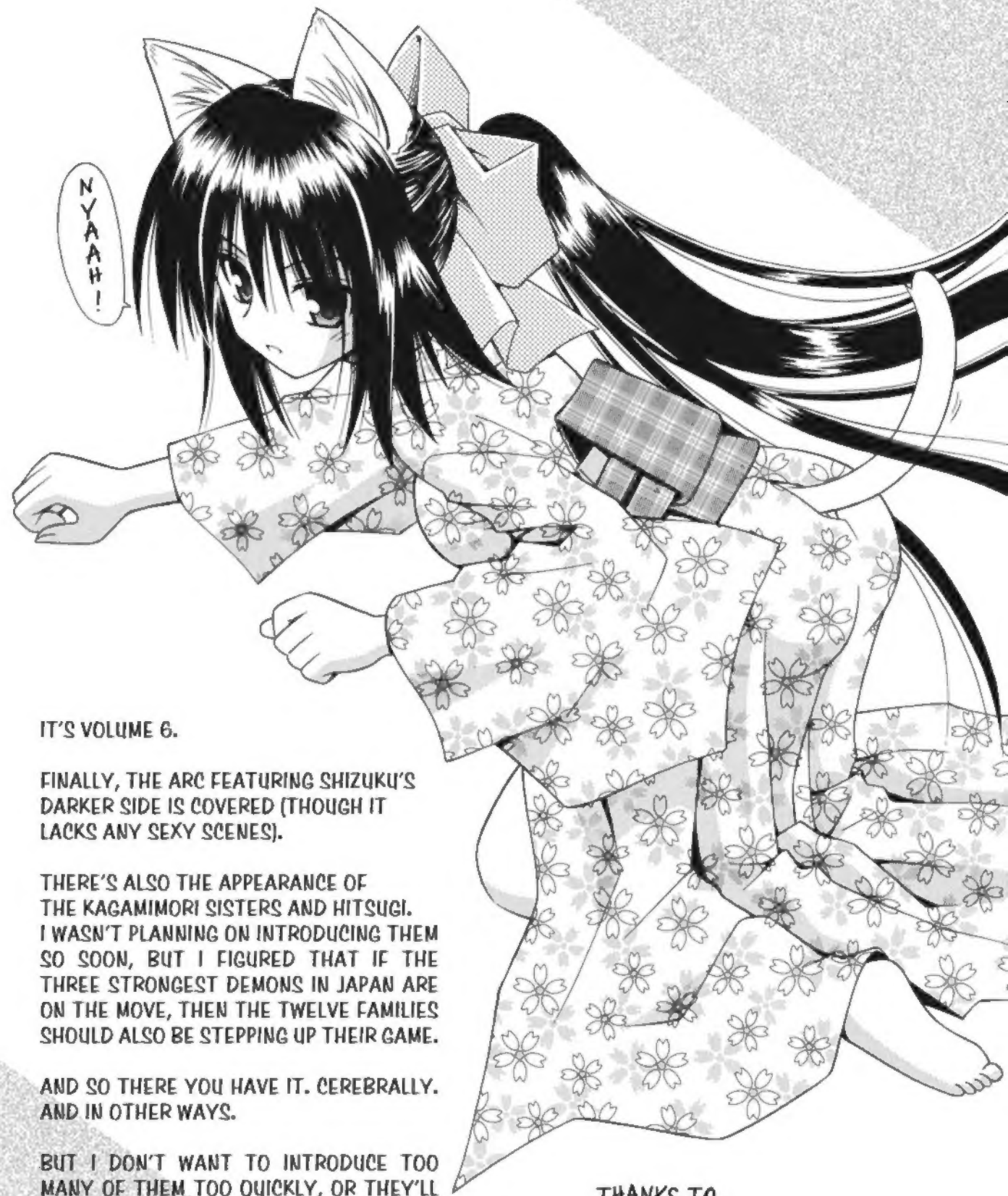
TO BE CONTINUED...

OMAMORI HIMARI

TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

Page 12:
Yandere
A manga/anime term for a female character who is very violent toward the object of her affection, typically due to mental instability.

Page 85:
Shukuchi
Shukuchi si is an ancient magical art of traversing far distances in a short time.



IT'S VOLUME 6.

FINALLY, THE ARC FEATURING SHIZUKU'S DARKER SIDE IS COVERED (THOUGH IT LACKS ANY SEXY SCENES).

THERE'S ALSO THE APPEARANCE OF THE KAGAMIMORI SISTERS AND HITSUGI. I WASN'T PLANNING ON INTRODUCING THEM SO SOON, BUT I FIGURED THAT IF THE THREE STRONGEST DEMONS IN JAPAN ARE ON THE MOVE, THEN THE TWELVE FAMILIES SHOULD ALSO BE STEPPING UP THEIR GAME.

AND SO THERE YOU HAVE IT. CEREBRALLY. AND IN OTHER WAYS.

BUT I DON'T WANT TO INTRODUCE TOO MANY OF THEM TOO QUICKLY, OR THEY'LL BE HARD TO KEEP TRACK OF (HEH).

OH, AND PLEASE ENJOY THE ANIME.

OCTOBER 2009 MILAN MATRA

THANKS TO

STUDIO HIBARI-SAN
KOUGETSU MIKAZUKI-SENSEI
AKIHIRO MOGAMI-KUN
HIDETAKA NIWA-SAN

OMAMORI HIMARI 6

MILAN MATRA

Translation: Christine Dashiell • Lettering: Hope Donovan

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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